development works as galvanised roofing, tiled flooring etc. alongwith provision or improvement of certain passenger amenity items *e.g.* display boards, steel basins, benches etc. are done at some railway stations by private parties at their cost. Such proposals are considered by concerned Zonal Railways. No details of such proposals are maintained.

Demand for super-fast train between Jamnagar-Mumbai

2603. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when a new super-fast train between Jamnagar-Mumbai will be materialized;

(b) since when the demand for above mentioned new train is being made;

(c) whether a demand for extension of Navjivan Express upto Rajkot is examined and a decision taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Three pairs of Express trains are presently running between Jamnagar and Mumbai. Requests have been received from time to time for a superfast train, but introduction of a superfast train between Jamnagar and Mumbai has not been found feasible at present.

(c) and (d) Extension of 2655/2656 Chennai-Ahmedabad Navjivan Express upto Rajkot has been examined but it has not been found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Accidents at unmanned railway crossings

2604. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that frequent accidents take place at unmanned crossings;

(b) if so, the details of such accidents in last two years;

(c) if it is not possible to provide manual service at each unmanned crossing, whether Government would consider some mechanical or computerized systems of alarm at the crossings; and

(d) if not, the steps being proposed to be taken to prevent accidents at unmanned crossings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of unmanned level crossing accidents decreased from 65 in 2007-08 to 62 in 2008-09. In the current year during April to November 2009, unmanned level crossing accidents decreased to 39 from 46 during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) Train Actuated Warning Device (TAWD) to warn the road users at unmanned level crossings had been tried but the trials have not proved successful due to theft and vandalism of the equipment.

(d) Steps taken to prevent accidents at unmanned level crossings include provision of basic infrastructure at unmanned level crossings, namely, levelled road surface at the crossings, proper road signs to warn road users, speed breakers/rumble strips on the approach road and whistle boards for the train drivers to whistle while approaching the level crossings. Since most of the unmanned level crossing accidents are caused due to the negligence of road users, public awareness programme and publicity campaigns through various electronic and print media are undertaken regularly. Joint ambush checks with the involvement of civil authorities are also conducted to check the erring road users. Manning of unmanned level crossings is also done upon their qualifying the laid down criteria for manning.

Shortage of staff

2605. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacant posts in Railways, category-wise;

(b) whether Government is aware that the railway services are getting affected due to shortage of staff; and

(c) if so, the steps Government contemplates to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The number of vacant posts in Zonal Railways as on 31.3.09, category-wise is 1704 in (A&B) category and 168109 in (C&D) category.

(b) and (c) In a large organization like the Railways, there will be certain vacancies at any point of time. However, there is no compromise made in the railway services including the operation and safety of trains. As regards filling of the vacant posts, the same is a continuous process and the policy of railway administration is to fill up all available vacant posts promptly as per laid down procedure.

Annual requirement of coaches

2606. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated annual requirement of coaches in Railways in the next three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of coach manufacturing units under Railways and outside Railways;

(c) the rated capacity of all coach manufacturing units, unit-wise;

(d) the envisaged annual production capacity of coach making units in Rai Bareli, Daukuni, Kanchrapara, Singur, Noapara and Majerhat; and